AARON'S TOWER?
Did Lincoln Castle guard the riches of the wealthiest in the land?

The Shuttleworth heirs
Chalk and cheese but both a chip off the old block

Life and death of Dr John Willis
An unusual family tale

Treasures of The Collection
ILLUSTRATION OF A ROMAN TESSELLATED PAVEMENT

WORLD WAR ONE
Female munitions workers in Lincoln

WHERE HAVE WE COME FROM AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?
History of the society's magazines, journals and newsletters

OBJECTS OF LIFE
Apparatus for restoring the apparently drowned
Welcome

2015 marks the anniversary of so many events – 200 years since Waterloo and 800 since Magna Carta, the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain and 70 years since the end of the Second World War. In addition it was 100 years ago in May that the Ministry of Munitions was set up under David Lloyd George to address the problem of a severe munitions shortage, and this is the subject of our item about Lincolnshire people during World War One. But we have reached a milestone of our own with this issue being the hundredth Lincolnshire Past and Present. In honour of this we have a special 36-page edition with more colour, an extra-long 'Trasures of The Collection' article from Antony Lee, and the first in a new series, 'Objects of Life' with Sara Basquill. We have had a look at the various periodicals published by SLHA over the years and many are pictured on page 8, including the first issue of Lincolnshire Past and Present. On page 10 we have reproduced an article by Kathleen Major on the Lincoln Magna Carta, which first appeared in The Lincolnshire Magazine Vol.4 No.4 in July 1939. This was when, apart from its time in the States, the Cathedral's copy of Magna Carta was kept in house and not in Lincoln Castle. Valuables have traditionally been kept within the castle's strong walls as we find in our cover article by Nigel Burn, Rob Wheeler has combined industrial and family history in one interesting piece about the Shuttleworth heirs, and Chris Adams has found an unusual tale in the course of his research into the Curtois and Willis families. Number 100 has a new look, showing the Society's new logos. This edition seems to have turned out particularly 'Lincolncentric' but we hope everyone will enjoy it nevertheless.

Ros Bevers, Editor

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AARON'S TOWER?

What was the Observatory Tower called before the observatory was built?
Nigel Burn has an answer.

The Observatory Tower is the name given to the tower that stands in the south-eastern corner of Lincoln Castle and which forms a well known landmark in the city. It overlooks Castle Hill and dominates the approach to the castle from the city below. Yet whilst the base of the tower has its origins in the middle of the twelfth century, the distinctive drum-shaped upper tower, together with its present name, is of much more recent origin coming as it does from the early part of the Victorian era. The purpose of this article is to suggest an alternative name by which the tower may have been known in medieval times.

The name given to the Observatory Tower is believed to have derived from its use by Governor John Merryweather to indulge his passion for astronomy. He was, from 1799 until 1830, governor of the prison situated in the castle. Certainly the tower was known as 'The Observatory' by 1827, for it is named as such in a map of the castle drawn by William Webb and dated 1 January of that year.
It is probable that the name 'The Observatory', together with the use of the tower by Merryweather for astronomy, predates the construction of the round drum tower that currently surmounts the edifice. This addition to the tower was originally intended for use as a watchtower from which to guard the convicts in what is now known as the old prison below, but since the county magistrates only approved the plans for the construction of the watchtower in March of 1825, it is probable that the cartographer was drawing on a name that had been established for a number of years beforehand. That said, it is most unlikely that the name of Observatory Tower predates the beginning of the nineteenth century. This begs the question as to how the tower was named prior to the time when the only use of the castle was as a prison, and in particular what, if any, name it bore in medieval times. Hitherto it had been thought that the documentary records were silent on the subject, but a recent reappraisal of a fourteenth century document may shed valuable light not only on the name of the tower, but also upon its use during the twelfth century.

The document in question is an Inquisition that was carried out in 1327. The castle had previously been in the hands of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster, but when he was executed at Pontefract Castle for treason his lands, of which Lincoln Castle had been part, came back into the king's hands. The purpose of the 1327
inquisition was to assess the state of the properties that had reverted to the crown. This document was summarised in The History of the King's Works as follows:

The Lucy Tower, the West Tower, and a tower called 'arountower' had all fallen, the first so long ago that no one could remember its collapse, the second in the time of Henry, Earl of Lincoln (d. 1311), the third is that of Thomas, Earl of Lancaster (1311–22). The great hall, the brew house, the stable,

he had written has led to the true meaning of his words being hidden.

It is probably safe to assume that there can only be one Aaron of sufficient prominence in Lincoln as to have the tower of a royal castle bear his name, and that is Aaron of Lincoln, the fabulously rich Jewish financier who operated in the city during the latter part of the twelfth century.

Aaron the Rich and the Medieval Jewish Community of Lincoln

The medieval Jews of England had been introduced into the country by William the Conqueror, but until 1140 there had been no Jewish population outside of London. The entire Jewish population of England was never huge, and it has been estimated by Vivian Lipman that the population may never have exceeded five thousand.

However, the contribution that the Jews made to the royal finances was grossly disproportionate to their numbers, and by 1194 when a tax was levied on the whole of the Jewish population the Jewish community in Lincoln was sufficiently well established as to make the second highest contribution in value after London.

Most professions were denied to Jews, but they could practice usury whereas Christians were forbidden to do so. Moneymaking thus became their principal business, and they congregated on the most active commercial centres of the day.

Given that Lincoln was then one of the wealthiest cities in the land based upon its trade in wool it was inevitable that the city should prove attractive to Jews and vice versa. They formed what we would call today the financial services sector of the city, providing the lending and so the capital that both was then and still is today essential for businesses to thrive.

The legal status of the Jews was peculiar, for they did not fit into any of the accepted classes of a feudal...
society, and to accommodate them they became the particular province of the king, being taken under his special protection. They were the king's Jews, his to protect and his to tax without mercy.

Because of their special status they became the responsibility of the constables of the royal castles, and in Lincoln as elsewhere they clustered close to the royal castles for the sake of the protection that they could provide in time of peril.

In Lincoln in 1190 they had to call upon that protection when a wave of anti-Semitic feeling swept the country after Richard I's coronation and his decision to go on crusade. Whereas in York the Jewish population was massacred after the constable of the castle failed to protect the Jews in that city, in Lincoln they successfully took refuge from the mob in the castle where the strength of its walls and the oratory of St Hugh protected them from harm.

Protection apart, the special status of the Jews meant that the king was entitled to their property when they died. This is what occurred when Aaron of Lincoln died, probably around 1185, for in the pipe roll for 1185/6 he is described as being dead.

Once the size of Aaron's estate became known it turned out that he had been hugely wealthy; possibly even more wealthy than had been thought during his lifetime, since much of his wealth was in mortgages and paper— or parchment— form, the value of which did not become apparent until his death. The greater part of the mortgaged land was in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire.

An idea of the scale of Aaron's operation can be gained from the names of his debtors at the time of his death. They included: William the Lion, King of Scotland; the Earls of Northampton, Leicester, Arundel, Aumale and Chester, the Prior of the Hospital of Lincoln and Bangor, the Archdeacons of Colchester and Carlisle, the towns of Winchester and Southampton, the Archbishop of Canterbury, thirteen abbots, the Sacrist of Lincoln Cathedral and five of the canons. 6

In 1201, sixteen years after Aaron's death and by which time many of the debts must have been discharged,
there was still the huge sum of £12,000 outstanding.9

In order to cope with this huge financial windfall for the crown there was established a separate section of the exchequer, known as 'The Exchequer of Aaron.' This had two treasurers and two clerks and it was not wound up until 1194, some nine years after Aaron's death. But the size of the outstanding debt, £12,000 in 1201, was such that the pipe rolls continued to record the debts of Aaron in a separate section up until 1223 in the case of the account for Lincolnshire.

The Observatory Tower and Aaron

What, then, are the possible circumstances that may have led to one of the towers of the royal castle of Lincolnshire being associated with the name of Aaron?

We can be sure that the tower was in existence by the time of Aaron's death, for archaeological excavations carried out in 1974 by Nicholas Reynolds have dated the motte of the tower to the middle of the twelfth century, albeit that some of the upper parts of the tower are later, dating to the fourteenth century.10

What follows is based on inference, that is to say it represents a logical conclusion based on known facts, but it is not based on any form of direct documentary evidence.

It has now been established that Aaron himself probably lived just outside the gate of the castle, more or less where the current Judges Lodgings now stand.11 He would have been known to be very rich even during his lifetime and he would have needed substantial amounts of gold or cash by way of ready capital for his lending. In those uncertain times, as the events of 1190 proved, he could not rely on the security of his house to resist a determined mob, however securely built the house. His proximity to the castle was probably intended as much for the protection of his wealth (in which the king took a keen interest) as for his person. It would be logical for him to store a certain amount of his wealth in the castle, which with its huge stone walls was the most secure place in the shire. Within the castle bailey a separate tower conveniently placed near to his house would have been an ideal location.

A second explanation relates to the time after Aaron's death and the procedures for gathering in Aaron's debts. As has been seen, it was necessary to set up a separate section of the exchequer to accommodate the huge wealth that Aaron's estate contained. This shows that a separate accounting function had been set up, with its own staff. Lincoln Castle was the place in the shire where the sheriff would have collected all the royal taxes, largely in specie, before making his laborious annual journey to the exchequer so as to render his account. From the pipe rolls it can be seen that for over 25 years this account comprised a separate account for the debts of Aaron. This in turn suggests that there may have been separate clerks based at Lincoln Castle preparing their own separate account and conducting the laborious business of persuading reluctant Lincolnshire debtors to pay up. If so, they may well have been based in what became known at the time as Aaron's tower.

One objection to this theory lies in the lapse in time between the last account for the debts of Aaron in the pipe rolls in 1223 and the appearance of the name Aaron's Tower in 1327, over a hundred years later and when no evidence of the use of that name appeared in the interim. Such a lapse is not, it is suggested, fatal since it will be recalled that the first documentary evidence of the name of the Lucy Tower only appears in 1225 when orders were given for repairs to the 'turret Lucy', some eighty-seven years after the death of the Countess Lucy, which is believed to have occurred in 1138.

Conclusion

Francis Hill in commenting on the lack of information about Aaron prior to the middle of the nineteenth century wrote in Medieval Lincoln: After some space of time Aaron seems to have been forgotten. He is not enshrined in any ballad literature, nor is he mentioned by antiquaries like Leland or Camden. The local histories of the early nineteenth century beginning with Adam Stark in 1810, do not know him.12

Perhaps the answer has been there all the time, looking down on us as we pass through Castle Hill.

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10 The City by The Post, ed. Stocker, pp.176 - 77.
11 Book of Fees, I, p. 355.
13 Medieval Lincoln, p.221.
Pearl Wheatley, Ken Redmore and Neil Wright tell the story of the Society's magazines, newsletters and journals

Where have we come from and where are we going?
THE SOCIETY for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology has just celebrated its 170th birthday and now another milestone is reached - the centenary issue of *Lincolnshire Past and Present* - this magazine. Where did it all start? What were the regular free publications to members over these 170 years? The very first to get into print is the first report of the Lincolnshire Architectural and Archaeological Society (although that was not its first chosen name). The front page reads:

Proceedings at The First General Annual Meeting of members and their friends held on November 21st 1844 at The Albion Rooms in Louth It is about A5 size, giving first a general report explaining the background and aims of the Society, followed by remarks by the Revd Irwin Eller. He is extolling the merits of the Gothic style and decrying any other church architecture. Then follows a list of officers and members, the total number being 66, of whom 44 were clergymen. Finally, the rules are set out and donations are listed (mostly library books and papers).

This remains the general format until 1964. Talks are usually printed in full, and gradually reports are included, which describe churches that have been refurbished. The twice yearly volumes were edited for many years by the Revd Edward Trollope, and for a long spell included reports of neighbouring county architectural societies.

After 1906 illustrated archaeological articles appear, such as the excavation of the Roman villa at Denton. The Society wound up in 1964 and became united with the Lincolnshire Local History Society, and so their publications came to an end.

In 1966, in succession to the Lincolnshire Architectural and Archaeological Society (Arch & Arch) Reports, came *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology*. This was in a larger format. The editorial note explains the aims of the new journal: to strike a balance between the more specialised articles heretofore printed in the Archaeological Society's Reports and Papers and material of more general interest to local historians previously found in *The Lincolnshire Historian*. This does not mean that every number will be equally divided between the two sorts of articles.

Members must have been confused since there is Sir Francis Hill writing on the 'Early Days of the Society', Ben Whitwell's *Archaeological Notes* and four in-depth studies - nothing like *The Lincolnshire Historian*. This annual academic publication, free to members, changed to A4 format with No. 11 and it remains that way up to the present.

Meanwhile, back in the 1930s, *The Lincolnshire Magazine* had reached the bookshelves. This is the only time there has been a commercial publication associated with the Society. It sold at 6d and included a few advertisements. It was published by the Lindsey Local History Society based at St Peter's Chambers, Silver Street, Lincoln. Vol. 1 No. 1 of September/October 1932 had a map of the county printed on green on the beige cover. By Vol. 1 No. 12 there were 396 pages, the numbering being through the whole volume of twelve issues. Later the cover featured a silhouette in black of the Cathedral towers with titles in orange. The final issue was Vol. 4 No. 4 in July 1939.

In 1935 Lindsey Local History Society launched *The Local Historian*. This four-page quarto size publication was issued quarterly and always had the same woodcut across the top of page 1. It had news items, helpful instructions and lists of donations. Members were encouraged to be active and collect archival material from their parishes. Help was to be found with the library service:

*The Lindsey County Librarian is the official custodian of documents and it is hoped that all notes made and all materials collected will be marked "Lincoln Local History Society" and sent to him at County Offices, Lincoln, for safe custody.*

There is a list of names of those sending in documents. It ended with No. 20.

No doubt funds were running low, because No. 21 in October 1938 was a quarto sized typed and duplicated edition with a green front page. A later first page has handwritten title and contents list. War brought difficulties on account of shortage of paper and personnel. Nos. 28, 29 and 30 were bound into one, as were several more after that. Efforts were made to carry on with as full a programme as possible: *The Lindsey Rural Community Council hopes to arrange a week-end school to be held at the Bishops' Hostel, Lincoln.*

*...In view of the difficulties of arranging a school in wartime it would be very helpful if attending students would let Major Northcotes know.*

The Society paid the Community Council for administration by Major Northcotes or his deputy, Miss Flora Murray. This series ran until Nos. 44, 45 and 46, which were published as one issue in April 1946.

*The Lincolnshire Historian* made its debut in the summer of 1947. This was much more ambitious. It was printed in about octavo size and No. 1 ran to 40 pages. It was published half yearly and edited by Mrs Joan Varley. This really was a history magazine - full of articles of varying lengths. It ran until 1965 to Vol. 2 No. 12 with 52 pages as 'the organ of the Lincolnshire Local History Society'. 1974 sees a return to a newsletter. No. 1 is a quarto size duplicated edition using various coloured paper. The first article is entitled 'The inaugural meeting of the new society [Society for Lincolnshire History and Archaeology] on May 4th 1974'. Officers and all committees are listed as well as reports and news but few articles. No. 44 contains the chairman's statement about the problems with location and finance.
but then No.45 is printed with an illustration on the cover under the editorship of Mrs Elizabeth Melrose. It runs in that format until No.50 in October 1986.

The first issue of Lincolnshire Past and Present was in A4 format with a colour coded glossy cover. No.1 Autumn 1990 is salmon, No.2 Winter 1990/1 is grey, then Spring and Summer are yellow and blue respectively. This system with slight variations continued until No.63 when the covers became more adventurous. There is a different illustration on each. From the beginning Hilary Hailey was the joint editor, initially with Terence Leach, and she remained in this post for every issue until her untimely death in 2013. From the start the volumes are quite well illustrated in black and white and have regular articles like ‘Notes and Queries’ and book reviews along with articles of varying length. The high standard has been upheld right through to this Number 100.

Ros Beever joined the editorial team in 1997 and has also, since then, been responsible for the production of the magazine.

There have been other newsletters or magazines circulated to members on a regular basis. One such was the Industrial Archaeology Newsletter, which appeared annually from 1966. Each volume contained four numbers issued quarterly. It had articles relating to the whole of the county and with an industrial flavour. The final volume, No.9 in 1974, contained only one article, ‘Boston as a Port’ by Michael Lewis and Neil Wright.

The Family History branch of the Society had publications that rolled off the press in fantastic numbers and their separate Family History Newsletter went to all Society members. Number 1 began in October 1978 as an A4 duplicated quarterly issue full of news and articles on Lincolnshire people. This format continued until No.12 when the numbering changed to Vol.1 No.1 in October 1981 and ended with Vol. 4 No. 2 in January 1985. After that it was printed in an A5 format, starting with Vol.5 and ending with Vol.7 No.5 when the Lincolnshire Family History Society was formed in 1990.

Whatever the title of the organisation, from 1844 until 2015 members have had free copies of reports, newsletters or magazines excepting for a short spell from 1965 until 1974. But surely this cannot be true. The members of those years must have had news of meetings, activities and publications. Although Lincolnshire History and Archaeology was deemed to replace former journals it does not give news of the Society. There is evidence of receipts for sales in 1968 when sale of publications is listed as £79-10-8 and sale of general publications as £25-1-8. Obviously the Society was not moribund. Perhaps buried in the archives we shall find examples of newsletters circulated over this period. Senior members may still have copies in their personal archives – news will be welcome.

The 2015 newsagents' shelves display an enormous number of magazines. They are, obviously, popular reading. Among the Lincolnshire ones are several that include an odd article on history or heritage of the county but there is not one regular publication dedicated to history and archaeology. It looks as if the market is there. Can SLHA fill that gap with Lincolnshire Past and Present joining Lincolnshire Life, Gardeners' World and all the other popular magazines, local and national, in the county's newsagents?

The following article is from The Lincolnshire Magazine Vol.4 No.4 July 1939 (pictured top right on page 8):

LINCOLN COPY OF THE MAGNA CARTA

By KATHLEEN MAJOR, M.A., B.Litt.
Linear Diocesan Archivist.

The assent of King John, on 15 June 1215 at Runnymede to the demands of the barons, formulated in a document known as the Articles of the Barons, was an event of the first importance to the English people. These articles became the basis of Magna Carta, and it has been said that all English constitutional history is a commentary on Magna Carta. This charter in its narrow sense was a settlement of the grievances of the barons by a restatement of the existing law of the land, but in its wider implications it was a clear enunciation of the principle that the king, no less than his subjects, must observe the law. We, as a county, have reason to be proud that the Lincolnshire born Archbishop of Canterbury, Stephen Langton, who was a native of Langton by Wragby, played so great a part in laying this foundation stone of our liberties. The Charter was reissued with certain variations in 1217 and again in 1225 and it was this last reissue that became the definitive text for future confirmations, which were periodically demanded of the King. In the first century after its promulgation it was frequently appealed to on the special points of law contained in its sixty-three chapters. Though as time went on the law changed and many of its clauses became obsolete, the charter's moral value as the rallying cry of the opponents of autocracy was
in no way diminished even when those invoking it four centuries later completely misunderstood certain of its passages.

It should be noted that although the unwilling royal assent was given on 15 June and this date is the one given on the document, the copies of the charter, of which large numbers had to be prepared, were not executed on that day. The process of drawing up and engrossing so long a document would take some time, after which the King's Great Seal would have to be applied by the responsible officers of the chancery, the esquire clerk, and the chaff-wax. At that date documents were never signed either by the grantor whose seal authenticated the grant, or by the witnesses whose attestation was recorded in the text, so that representations of King John with a pen in his hand about to sign the charter are a figment of a later imagination. Mr Lane Poole considers it doubtful whether all copies actually had the royal seal attached. He says 'The originals at Lincoln and Salisbury show no trace of any seal at all. It may perhaps be conjectured that the great seal was attached to the original kept in the Exchequer.' On the other hand Sir John Fox writes of the Lincoln example: 'There are three eylet holes, arranged in the form of a pyramid, piercing through both thicknesses of the fold and intended for the insertion of a cord to which the seal was probably attached, and Mr C. G. Crump says that 'Corals and seals no longer remain on the Salisbury and Lincoln copies, and even the holes are a little difficult to see, but there is no doubt that these two copies were sealed in the most splendid manner.' In his reference to the [Lincoln] cathedral copy of the Magna Carta in his edition of the Registrum Antiquissimum of the Cathedral, Canon C. W. Foster concurred with Mr Lane Poole's opinion.

Many people have wondered why Lincoln should have a copy when the only others surviving are two at the British Museum and one at Salisbury cathedral. That Lincoln should have had a text originally is not so surprising as it should still retain it after so many centuries. One chronicler, Ralph Coggeshall, records that a copy was sent to each county and the annalist of Dunstable says that a copy was 'to be deposited in every see in a safe place'. On 19 June the King by Letters Patent ordered all sheriffs and other officers to read publicly the charter in their bailiwicks. Mr J. W. Brooks has pointed out that immediately following this writ among the delivery of charters, it is recorded that two copies were handed to the Bishop of Lincoln on 24 June. It is therefore reasonable to suppose that the Lincoln Cathedral charter is one of these. Mr R. L. Poole has shown that it was customary to deposit in the cathedral church of any diocese the charters issued by kings in special circumstances. This was done in the case of Henry I's charter issued on his coronation to win the people to support him in spite of his slightly questionable title, and in the case of Stephen's charter of 1136. To deposit a copy of so important a charter as that of 1215 in the cathedral church was therefore a perfectly natural course to take, and we have every reason to rejoice that the Lincoln Carta has survived the vicissitudes of centuries and has now been lent by the Dean and chapter of the Cathedral to the Great Exhibition in New York, as a token of the bond of friendship between this country and the United States, whose citizens in virtue of their English origins can also look on Magna Carta as a significant document in their own history of freedom.

Note: This article is based on the following sources:
R. L. Poole, The publication of great charters by the English kings, English Historical Review vol. xxvi, pp. 444-453, 1913.
W. S. McKechnie, Magna Carta, Glasgow, 1916.

Below is part of a description by the Surveyor to the Dean and Chapter, R. S. Godfrey, CBE, FSA, FFAS, of the framing of the document for its trip to the USA, which followed Miss Major's article:

The definite decision by the Dean and Chapter to loan the Lincoln Copy of the Magna Carta to the New York World's Fair, necessitated the document being placed in a frame, which in addition to being water and fireproof, should as far as possible be of such a construction that it would be an almost impossibility for anyone, except by the destruction of the frame, to gain access to the actual Charter during its absence from Lincoln. Naturally this raised some interesting and rare problems. Eventually it was decided to place the document in a metal frame. As the document should be readable from both sides (the endorsement being on the reverse side) it necessitated the document being placed between two sheets of glass; as this glass had to be fire proof and as far as possible thief proof, it was decided to use Armoreplate Glass, 5/16 of an inch thick for each side of the Charter. To carry these two sheets of Armourplate Glass, a special section of Delta Bronze metal for the framing was designed. The two sheets of Armourplate glass were embedded into a specially designed moulded rubber packing to fit the internal section of this metal framing; the rubber packing was so designed, not only as water and shock proofing, but also, would at the same time under normal conditions owing to certain perforations allow air circulation to the Charter.
The Shuttleworth Heirs

Rob Wheeler tells the story of two brothers who, in a sense, went their separate ways and, in a sense, did not.

Joseph Shuttleworth was one of the two founding partners of the Clayton & Shuttleworth firm. This started in 1842 as an iron foundry. From 1849 it concentrated on making portable steam engines and the threshing machines they powered. In 1857 it set up a subsidiary enterprise in Vienna to serve the Austro-Hungarian market. By 1861 it employed 900 or so men in Lincoln and was highly profitable. From 1849 Richard Bach joined the company. It was his design that launched the firm on its road to success. In 1853 Bach left to set up his own firm in direct competition. That firm failed, but it seems to have made Messrs Clayton and Shuttleworth suspicious of having men other than partners in positions of great responsibility.

The Vienna operation required such men, especially as branches were established in the major constituent countries of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The solution adopted was to employ relatives: Shuttleworth's brother (it would seem) at Vienna, a brother-in-law at Lemberg (Lvov).

Joseph Shuttleworth married his partner's sister in 1842. Before her death she bore him two sons, Alfred (born 29 May 1843) and Frank (born 16 February 1845). There can be little doubt that by the 1850s he saw them as a potential solution to the need to find family members to fill responsible positions. And although the firm was prosperous by the 1850s there was no guarantee that this would continue, so it made good sense for their own sake to educate the boys as to fit them for work, and ultimately partnership, in an agricultural-engineering firm. There were numerous commercial schools in Lincoln that would teach the boys to cast accounts, to compose suitable letters and to write them out in an elegant hand. As for practical workshop skills, Joseph Shuttleworth himself was well able to supervise their training. Until 1858 they were probably brought up much like the offspring of any other Lincoln iron-founder.

The figure who was most instrumental in establishing the Austro-Hungarian operation was probably T.M. Keyworth. He and Charles Seely had joined the partnership in 1847, when it was close to financial failure. By 1869 Keyworth's sons and Seely had all been bought out, and their role has tended to be forgotten. The key customers in the Austro-Hungarian Empire were aristocrats with large estates in Hungary; Keyworth was an educated man and a good linguist, able to negotiate with such people. Shuttleworth must have realised that his sons would need a level of polish that a commercial school in Lincoln could not provide. This is presumably why he decided to send Alfred to Rugby School. He started there on his sixteenth birthday, and remained there for about two years. It can hardly have been easy for the boy to find himself in a different world socially, and one where most of his fellows will have been schooled in the classics from an early age.

He was then sent abroad. His obituary, which is the source for this, does not say where, but it was probably France, and the purpose was, presumably, to improve his French. This was a language offered
he would have more than maintained the traditions
that are associated with his father. The source
of information for his obituaries can scarcely be other
than Alfred – Frank predeceased him by some years.
Why is artistic skill mentioned? Is the failure
to mention the workshops or the commercial office
significant? One wonders whether Alfred was doing
his best to highlight the positive aspects of a period
that was mostly unsuccessful and wholly disagreeable
to Frank. At any rate, we are told that he decided
to join the Army. He was commissioned as a Cornet in
the 11th Hussars on 23 June 1865, aged 20.
There are three aspects of this that invite attention.
First, the commission needed to be purchased – the
purchase of army commissions was not abolished until
1871. It will have cost at least £840 (the official tariff)
and a junior officer in a stylish regiment like this
would hardly been able to live on his pay. So, however
much it went against Joseph Shuttleworth’s presumed plans, we must suppose that Frank had talked his
father round.

Secondly, a cavalry regiment would expect a good
standard of horsemanship and Frank would be known
throughout his life for his way with horses. One of
his obituaries declares that he was introduced to
hunting at the age of ten. It would be interesting to
know how he was introduced: in 1855 the family was
hardly moving in hunting circles. Nevertheless, we can
assume that, fitted around his formal education, he
had been doing a great deal of riding. Indeed it may
have been a love of horses as much as a distaste for
manufacturing that led to his wanting an army career.
The third point is that the 11th Hussars, though still
stationed at Dublin when he joined, was moved to
India the following year. Commissions in regiments
going out to India were easier to obtain, and there
was less likely to be a premium over and above the
official tariff. Was that a factor? Was Frank keen to see
the world? Or was his father determined that if his
son was to follow an army career, it should be proper
soldiering rather than the fashionable round of a
cavalry officer in garrison?

Frank certainly took advantage of his time in India.
He obviously enjoyed the hunting. We are told that
in 1867–8 he acquired splendid specimens of bear,
barasingha [swamp deer], Kashmir stag or hangul,
ibex, and a variety of smaller game. That the obituarist
was able to list these ‘splendid specimens’ suggests that
their heads were sent home to ornament the staircase
of Joseph Shuttleworth’s new house, Hartsholme Hall.
Frank also gained promotion to lieutenant in July 1868.

1 Obituary in the Lincolnshire Echo, 23 November 1925
2 Christine Hill, Old Warden: tales of tenants and squires, 2014. For the school, see http://www.winslow-history.org.uk/winslow_winslow_
hall-school.shum
3 He is not listed in the published Rugby School Register, despite a statement in one of his obituaries that he was sent there.
4 London Gazette
In 1870 he exchanged into the 7th Hussars, which had just returned to the UK from India. This sort of exchange was usually made just before the regiment returned, but it was a common enough practice. It depended on finding an officer of the same rank in the returning regiment who preferred to stay in India or, more usually, was prepared to exchange posts given sufficient financial inducement. We can assume that Joseph Shuttleworth provided the money, and therefore that he was keen to have his son back in England. Alfred had married the previous year; perhaps he had visions of Frank settling down.

In the event, Frank took to life in a succession of UK garrisons with enthusiasm, playing polo and keeping racehorses. One of his horses, Matador, won nine steeplechases out of fourteen, being ridden in each case by Frank himself. In 1871 he was promoted to captain. Then, in 1874, Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, was commissioned as a captain in the 7th Hussars.

The War Office had its rooms redecorated in what it thought a suitably rich style; the prince thought them loathsome, and arranged a swap with Frank, who gained great kudos from having what must have been the most richly decorated rooms of any captain in the army. That is the way he seems to have told the story, but the real kudos will have come from the fact that he was a mate of a royal prince. Did Prince Arthur introduce him to his eldest brother? We are told in 1913 that Frank had been a personal friend of the late King Edward VII. The latter, as Prince of Wales, was certainly interested in the turf and shooting. He was also noted for his willingness to associate with 'new money'.

It can be argued that in this period Frank was of greater service to his father than he could ever have been as head of the Vienna operation. For Joseph Shuttleworth was now pursuing status rather than money. In 1872 he had bought the Old Warden estate from Lord Ongley, and he proceeded to build a massive new mansion house. What did this give him that he lacked at Hartsholme? It certainly enabled him to create an estate village, something he could never have done at Hartsholme. But the strongest reason was perhaps that in Lincolnshire, however much land he acquired, he would always be 'the Lincoln industrialist'. In Bedforshire he could be, first and foremost, a landowner. County society might be strange to him in its ways, but his son could act as his guide and, with his extensive acquaintance in the military and sporting worlds, could smooth his path.

The events of 1881 are somewhat puzzling. In February the 7th Hussars were ordered to Natal, where the First Boer War was ending. They arrived on 4 April. On 3 April the census records Frank at Hartsholme Hall; perhaps illness had prevented him from embarking. Since a peace treaty had been agreed in March he may have expected the regiment to be brought back immediately, but after the Pretoria Convention had been ratified on 25 October it seems to have been
decided to leave the regiment in South Africa.

Frank retired from the Army in November. By way of a farewell present from the War Office, he was given the brevet rank of major on the day of his retirement. His obituarists all describe him as retiring when he inherited Old Warden on his father's death. Indeed they seem anxious to refute any criticism that he was shy of cold steel and flying bullets by recording that he had volunteered to serve in the Abyssinian War of 1867–8 but that his offer was turned down because his regiment had arrived in India so recently. Were there mutterings that he should have gone to South Africa?

In January 1883 Joseph Shuttleworth died. By his will he left his residuary estate to his two sons equally as tenants in common. It would appear — and the key evidence for this is Natty Clayton's will — that the Clayton & Shuttleworth partnership agreement provided that, in the event of the death of one of the partners, his capital would remain in the firm for 21 years, and the direction of the firm would be with the remaining partners. Thus the position from 1883 to Clayton's death in December 1890 was that there were two partners, Natty Clayton and Alfred Shuttleworth, but Frank Shuttleworth had a substantial interest in the firm. There must have been some further agreement between the brothers because Frank became the proprietor of Old Warden and his father's other Bedfordshire property.

Thereafter, Old Warden became Frank's principal residence, though he also had a London town house. He became joint Master of the Cambridgeshire Foxhounds in 1896, serving until 1903. He also took up new sports, better suited to the more mature — and wealthy — man: driving four-in-hand, and yachting. He owned a succession of boats, of which the largest was the brigantine Xarifa, 560 tons. In 1889 he was elected to the Royal Yacht Squadron, Cowes. He was also an early motorist and, very appropriately, served on the Highways and Bridges Committee of Bedfordshire County Council. In 1901 the War Office realised it needed mounted soldiers like the Boers and set up the Bedfordshire Imperial Yeomanry, with similar organisations in other counties. Frank was made its first Commanding Officer. He retired from this role in 1905, being made an honorary colonel.

Following Natty Clayton's death in December 1890 the direction of the business was solely in the hands of Alfred. In 1901 he turned the business into a limited company. He remained a major shareholder but took a back seat so far as the management was concerned.

Whether he saw it that way or not, it was a good time to move money out. The agricultural engineering industry was facing stormy waters. In 1909 a drought in Europe caused a slump in sales there, and a drop in the price of the firm's shares indicated a loss of confidence by the stock market. The two brothers acted decisively: Frank took on the chairmanship and Alfred the day to day management. Together they turned the company round, at least in the short term.

So, by a quirk of fate, the brother who had left the firm for the army ended up as its chairman. By another quirk, the brother who married in 1869 produced no children. Frank, in contrast, waited until he was 57 when he married the 23-year-old daughter of the incumbent at Old Warden; seven years later a son was born, Richard Ormonde Shuttleworth. He was to die in a flying accident in 1940, the last of Joseph Shuttleworth's heirs.

It would be wrong to end without recording Alfred's almost legendary generosity to the city where he lived his entire life. The good causes he supported are too numerous to list. There are some rather odd causes as well. He donated new offices and founndries to the Clayton & Shuttleworth company. This was, in effect, a gift to his fellow shareholders. The shareholders were no doubt splendid people, but company shareholders are not usually considered appropriate objects for charitable benevolence. It seems that he felt guilty at having sold out in 1901 when the company was at the height of its prosperity, especially as so many small men in Lincoln had invested their savings in the firm, convinced that the good times would last forever. If he felt guilty during the pre-war hiccup, how must he have felt as the company was battered by the post-war slump? Alfred died four years before the receivers were called in, but he must have seen the writing on the wall. 'Dust to dust, ashes to ashes' of institutions and of hopes as well as of mortal men.

Coming soon:
Rob Wheeler will discuss the Clayton heirs in a future issue of LP&P.

For more on the engineering firm of Clayton & Shuttleworth, see Rob Wheeler's article 'The Rise of Clayton and Shuttleworth' in Lincolnshire History and Archaeology Vol.47 (2012), and his article 'The Decline and Fall of Clayton & Shuttleworth: the view from the sales office' in LP&P No.89, Autumn 2012.

For more on the Shuttleworth family and their estates at Lincoln and Old Warden see also John Williams's article 'The Shuttleworth Family of Lincoln' in LP&P 52, Summer 2003.
100:1 Mystery picture

Terry Trickett forwarded to us an image of a sketch, dated 1967, by the late Peter A. Brannan, who was a well known Lincolnshire artist. He had not been able to identify the location of the picture and was hoping for information that could identify the scene. Suggestions so far are: Grimsby or Cleethorpes, and Lincoln, looking southeast from opposite the Cornhill, the church tower being that of St Mary le Wigford and the building on the right being the Great Northern stables, or Lincoln, looking north on the High Street, the church tower being that of St Benedict. Other suggestions as to the location would be welcome.

1967 sketch by Lincolnshire artist Peter A. Brannan - Grimsby, Lincoln, or somewhere else?

100:2 Smaller baron

Many by now are familiar with the 25 six-foot barons to be found on the streets of Lincoln this summer to mark the 800th anniversary of the sealing of the first Magna Carta by King John in 1215. Sponsored by local businesses and organisations, they are beautifully painted in various designs to represent different aspects of Lincoln and the county's life and heritage. Each one also stands for one of the barons charged with the enforcement of the charter. Not so many will have seen our own mini barons in the SLHA bookshop window, but of those who have, some have asked why one of them is smaller (right). He is William de Mowbray who held estates in Lincolnshire. A contemporary 13th century commentator, Anonymous of Béthune, so called for being in the entourage of Robert de Béthune, described him as being 'most valiant' but 'as small as a dwarf'. A full picture of the window can be seen on the SLHA website. Go to the Gallery, click on SLHA in the list and find it under EVENTS 2015.
In the latest edition of *Lincolnshire History and Archaeology* (Vol 47 page 61) Rob Wheeler in his paper *The Rise of Clayton and Shuttleworth* refers to girders within the 1847 Lincoln Castle prison, which bear the name of Clayton and Shuttleworth. He tells us that these are probably the earliest surviving products of the firm. This reminds me that there used to be visible within the former Lincoln City prison (behind the old Sessions House at the bottom of Lindum Hill) a rather similar exposed girder dated and lettered, not with the name of Clayton and Shuttleworth but of Clayton only.

I knew the inside of this building quite well in the early 1980s when it was used as the premises of the Lincoln Archaeological Trust. The girder in question was within what I imagine had been the governor’s office, or main administration room of the prison for it had, and has, a large bay window that overlooks the site of the exercise yards on the east side. This room is partly within the main prison structure, but extends eastwards to form a projecting wing. The main structural wall thus has a large gap in it, which required the girder to span the room and support the wall above. It was quite a substantial piece of ironwork as I recall.

I cannot now remember the exact lettering, but I am sure it included the name Clayton, but not Shuttleworth. I mentally noted at the time that the maker was probably a predecessor of Clayton and Shuttleworth. It also had a year, which I am pretty sure was in the 1840s, 1841 or 1842 seems to come to mind. However, memory is notoriously fallible in these circumstances, especially when prejudiced by later reading and knowledge.

Thanks to Rob Wheeler’s research I now realise that this girder must have been made right in the middle of the period when the partnership between Clayton and Shuttleworth was forming, and the precise name and date of it could be a useful piece in the historical jigsaw. It is almost certainly still in situ, but the whole building has since been refitted internally as the catering department of Lincoln College. The raw brick and iron is now hidden behind modern wall coverings and ceilings more compatible with the current use. During the spring recess, the Facilities Manager of the college very kindly gave me access to the building to see if the girder was still visible, but while some features have been deliberately left visible for historical interest, this girder has been boxed in behind a modern ceiling.

I have enquired of the City Council planning office and the Historic Environment Record but no record of this detail exists in either. Perhaps I am not the only person to remember it and its inscription? A large number of people with an interest in history and archaeology worked in the building, or passed through it, during its use by the Trust. If you did, and can recall anything about this, it would be most interesting to hear from you.

*Christopher Padley*

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**100:4 Water towers**

*Barry Barton* hopes to find photographs of the ‘deceased’ Lincolnshire water towers listed in the table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>TF</th>
<th>Material</th>
<th>Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Billingborough</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>concrete</td>
<td>c1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burton Bradwine</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>masonry(?)</td>
<td>1911</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grimsby</td>
<td>393</td>
<td>concrete(?)</td>
<td>1938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heckington</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>steel(?)</td>
<td>pre1905</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mablethorpe</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>concrete</td>
<td>1932</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martin</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>concrete</td>
<td>1937</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skegness (1st)</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>masonry</td>
<td>pre1892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skegness (2nd)</td>
<td>558</td>
<td>concrete</td>
<td>1925</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Staveford, Clay Hill</td>
<td>055</td>
<td>concrete</td>
<td>1911*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spalding, Pinchbeck Road</td>
<td>247</td>
<td>masonry</td>
<td>c1863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winterton Northlands</td>
<td>SE 92</td>
<td>concrete(?)</td>
<td>1930s(?)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*This was the predecessor to the existing 1835 water tower on this site.*
Apparatus for Restoring the Apparently Drowned

The collections at the Museum of Lincolnshire Life hold many weird and wonderful objects, but one of the more fascinating is a box of early resuscitation equipment for reviving the 'apparently drowned'. These kits were the work of the Humane Society and surviving examples are very rare. The Humane Society (later the Royal Humane Society) was founded in the London Coffee House in 1774. Its purpose was to research methods of resuscitation and develop equipment; prizes and medals were awarded to stimulate progress. The design of the Museum's set was described by the Royal Humane Society in their Annual Report of 1829.

The apparatus, stored in a purpose built wooden box, comprises a set of bellows; a connecting tube of waxed cloth with an outer wire spiral; three silver cannulas for inflating the patient via either the throat or a tracheostomy; three differently sized bone cannulas for fitting into a nostril (the other nostril and mouth were closed and the lungs inflated); a scalpel for opening the trachea and a set of feather round bellows with bone and waxed cloth cannulas (for introducing fluids or smoke into the rectum or stomach respectively).

The box was obtained by a general practitioner in 1905 and donated to the City and County Museum the following year. A note, written on paper printed 'Dr Carlile, Lincoln', but undated and unsigned, accompanies the box and describes its provenance. Dr Carlile (most likely the GP who donated the box to the Museum) states that the apparatus was owned by Lincoln County Hospital and was kept at the Lord Nelson Inn, which was situated on the bank of the River Witham by the High Bridge in Lincoln. The inn was demolished in the early 20th century (Carphone Warehouse stands on the site today). The fact the equipment was kept at the Lord Nelson Inn was advertised in the County Hospital Annual Report until 1885. The letter also notes that a similar, but more elaborate apparatus box, containing tobacco and salts, was kept at the County Hospital, but was sold in 1878. There is no evidence the Lincoln apparatus was ever used and it was probably kept at the Lord Nelson Inn as a curio.
Resuscitation equipment lost its popularity in the 1830s when it was found that the procedure could rupture the lungs, and many patients, who may have recovered, perished due to an overenthusiastic use of the bellows. The Royal Humane Society withdrew bellows wherever they had supplied them. In the 1950s the old-fashioned method of mouth to mouth resuscitation was reintroduced (it had previously been employed by midwives to resuscitate new born babies) and is still practiced today.

NOT FOR THE SQUEAMISH—
The apparatus (far left), designed to resuscitate casualties that had fallen into the River Witham, included a scalpel for opening the trachea, and a set of bellows with cannulas to introduce fluids into the rectum or smoke into the stomach. In the 19th century it was kept at the Lord Nelson Inn (left) which was next to the river in Lincoln. Below is the note that accompanied the apparatus when it was donated to the City and County Museum in 1906. It has since passed to the Museum of Lincolnshire Life in Burton Road, Lincoln.

Apparatus for Resuscitation
The apparatus donated
When one of apparatus was kept by the Lincoln County Hospital at the Lord Nelson Inn, which is near the Horsefair in the river Whitham. In part of the building was used as an advertisement in the annual report of the Hospital until the year 1906. The contents consisted of an ear or nose syringe, a needle for opening the trachea, a pair of bellows in the tail, and a tube, to which was connected the donor's other arm. Once these tubes were inserted the member was placed in a position through which the tube was passed over the bicep and the tube was drawn through the arm, and the trachea was then opened through the opening in the

Sara Bosquille is Collections Access Officer for the Museum of Lincolnshire Life in Lincoln, and Gainsborough Old Hall.
Our sixth account of Lincolnshire people during the First World War is based on an article by Ann Yeates-Langley, which first appeared in the *East Midland Historian*, volume 7, in 1997. The article was extracted from Ann's dissertation for her Masters degree from Nottingham University in 1993, which examined the position of women in engineering in the two World Wars. Much of the evidence for working and social conditions came from a small sample of women whose memories were recorded on audio-tape by the author.

**FEMALE MUNITIONS WORKERS IN LINCOLN**

By 1914 there were already several well established engineering works in Lincoln, such as Robey and Co Ltd, Clayton & Shuttleworth, William Foster, and Ruston, Proctor & Co. Up to the First World War they had produced thrashing sets, traction engines, road rollers and steam winding engines. An enormous trade had been built up with Russia, Australia and South America. As the war approached trade began to decline and markets began to close. Lincoln firms were now facing a crisis and many people faced unemployment. But with the outbreak of war conditions began to change. Recruits joined battalions leaving a shortage of skilled men in the factories. At the same time there was a severe shortage of munitions. In May 1915 the Ministry of Munitions was set up, headed by David Lloyd George, to oversee their production. Also the Government began to seek out engineering firms that had production techniques that lent themselves to the manufacture of aircraft. Lincoln was ideal and soon became one of the largest aircraft production centres in the world. 15 August 1915 was the great Registration Day on which each man and woman between the ages of 15 and 65 was to register, giving details of the skills and talents they possessed. This, together with a survey of the possible factories that could adapt to the production of munitions, revealed a picture that more women could be employed.

One lady, described as Mrs Fin, worked at Harrison's Malleable Ironworks, Hykeham, casting shells. '... it was a mould ... how you would make a jelly or blancmange. At one side was some red sand that we had to sprinkle on first and ... water the other side and ... black sand like soil and we threw that on and [with] a flat hammer we had to flatten it all down solid and with a trowel fill up the corners of the frame, [which] had a catch to fasten it. Then we had to lift it carefully out onto the floor and put all these moulds in a row.' Later Mrs Fin worked at Ruston's on a turret lathe. '... a lever turned a turret round with ... arms sticking out. You had another tool that ... bored to a point inside each end, another to make holes each end, then a polisher with oil gradually running as you worked ... and it polished like silver.' Other women in the sample worked on aircraft production, such as Mrs C who was employed in the rib shop at Clayton & Shuttleworth's working on Sopwith Camel fighter aeroplanes, which were introduced into the war in 1917. The full article about the 'munitionettes' will appear in the Society's journal, *LHA*, in due course.
ON 23 DECEMBER 1749, at Branston, Mary Curtois married the Revd Francis Willis, joining together in holy matrimony two of Lincoln's better connected clerical families. The groom was the son of the late Revd John Willis, who had been rector of South Hykeham and Thorpe-on-the-Hill, successor of the Cathedral, and incumbent of the prebend of St Botolph. The bride was the daughter of the Revd John Curtois, rector of both Branston and Potterhanworth.

At the time of his marriage Francis Willis was Vicar of Ashby-de-la-Launde. He and his bride went to live nearby at Dunston, rent-free, in the manor house belonging to his friend Francis Dashwood. By 1761 they had five sons, all baptised at Dunston: Francis, John, Thomas, Richard and Robert Darling.2

Francis Willis had become a clergyman because that was what his father wanted, but his main interest was in the cure not of souls but of minds. He had always been interested in medicine, having attended medical lectures whilst at Oxford, and he came to specialise in the treatment of the insane:

It is said that the great success that attended the eminent Dr Willis had its origin in an experiment tried upon a tradesman of Lincoln, who on becoming insane was taken to Dunston, where the treatment of his malady was such that in a short time he was enabled to return to this city and resume duties behind the counter.3

He took patients into his home at Dunston and effectively turned it into an asylum, spending (he reckoned) at least £1200 on making the manor fit for this purpose. When Dashwood would not sell him the freehold they fell out, and the Willis family and their asylum eventually decamped to Greatford, near Stamford, in 1778.4

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1 A Survey of the Cathedrals Vol.III, Browne Willis, 1742, London
2 I have a website containing much detail about the family, available at www.chradams.co.uk/willis/contents.html
3 Stamford Mercury, 5 August 1859
4 Sir Francis Dashwood, Betty Kemp, MacMillan, 1967
He might have remained an obscure Lincolnshire clergyman had he not been summoned to London in 1788 to treat King George III. The King recovered while under his treatment, though it is doubtful that Willis actually cured him, and as a result a grateful nation awarded the Revd Dr Willis a pension of £1000 per annum for 21 years – and Alan Bennett wrote a play about the episode.

Francis Willis was aided in his treatment of the King partly by his sons Thomas and Robert, but mainly by his son John. For his part in the King's recovery John was awarded a pension of £650 a year for life – and with fame and fortune. Fanny Burney wrote that he was 'extremely handsome, and inherits in a milder degree, all the qualities of his father' though he never married.

John Willis was born at Dunston on 23 September 1751, and apparently studied medicine at Brasenose College, Oxford, and Edinburgh University. He then seems to have returned to Lincolnshire and helped his father run his asylum.

In about 1796 Dr Francis Willis built himself a house at Shillingthorpe in the parish of Bracelborough (Greatford was rented), and opened a second asylum there, and John Willis inherited both these establishments upon his father's death in 1808 and ran them both until his own death in 1835. He also returned to treat the King during several further bouts of insanity.

Meanwhile, at Branston, the Revd John Curtois had died in 1767, and was succeeded in the livings of Branston and Potterhanworth by his son Peregrine Harrison Curtois, Mrs Willis's brother. Peregrine Harrison Curtois had two daughters and a son, who were thus cousins to the five Willis children. The son, also named Peregrine, was born at Branston on 4 April 1775, and would succeed his father and grandfather as Rector at Branston and Potterhanworth.

Despite the 24-year difference in their ages, Dr John Willis and the Revd Peregrine Curtois seem to have been firm friends, frequently attending Staff balls, Mayoral feasts and County events together. The Willis family were enthusiastic proponents of the virtues of spa water – this is presumably not unconnected with their being the proprietors of a spa at Braceborough – and Dr Willis and Revd Curtois used to go to Buxton together to take the waters there. Dr Willis had a stiff shoulder as a result of a fall from his horse, and found that the waters eased it. The reverend gentleman thought that a month at Buxton every year kept his health robust, though the
waters made him constipated; he was obliged to take rhubarb as a countermeasure. Dr Willis was a liberal patron of field sports and a keen race-goer, and was one of the stewards of Lincoln races in 1825. When attending the races at Lincoln, he was in the habit of staying with his cousin Peregrine Curtois at the latter’s house, Longhills, which is just outside Branston. It was there that Dr Willis died, on 25 September 1835, while getting ready to go racing. Tattersall’s sold his stud at Hyde Park Corner on 23 and 30 the November following. He was buried at Greatford, the Revd Curtois erecting the memorial and ensuring that his name was also prominently displayed.

As the last surviving son, John Willis had inherited a great deal of stock under the terms of his father’s will, as well as money and property from his brothers Francis and Robert, and he left a fortune of about £300,000 (about £15 million in today’s terms). Peregrine Curtois was one of the two executors of his will and was also his residuary legatee, and after the various other bequests had been paid his friendship with the doctor rewarded him with about £100,000. Two years later he was the proud owner of a newly rebuilt Longhills, in the latest Italianate fashion. A fine sight meets the eyes of travellers journeying to our ancient city by way of Branston. About half-mile ere you enter this village, a sumptuous-looking new hall erects its crest amidst the plantations to the right; while an odd grotesque-looking fabric, intended as a lodge, stands at you by the road side. Perhaps there might be a worse way of laying out money, derived in the first instance from making strap-vestcoats for a royal lunatic...
Soulby's brewery

Following his article on Soulby's brewery in the last Lincolnshire History and Archaeology (Vol.47), Adam Cartwright received two more images from Alan Rundle at New Bolingbroke. Pictured above is a Foden steam wagon owned by Soulby's, photographed when it was new at their Coningsby depot in 1909. The boy with the oil can is Alan's grandfather, and the photo was taken by his father, the Revd Harness Rundle. Below is a postcard view, looking north along the main road at New Bolingbroke, with the Globe pub on the right and Soulby's old brewery behind it. The postcard has a postmark of 1905 so predates the other image. These photos are also to appear on the SLHA Website Gallery in due course.
Frank outshone Cecil at cricket

MORE SNIPPETS ON THE RHODES BROTHERS' CRICKETING EXPLOITS
DISCOVERED BY MICHAEL TURLAND

FRANK WAS GOOD ENOUGH to warrant an obituary in Wisden, included in an anthology of 1980: 'He made many excellent scores in Army matches'.

He played for Eton against Harrow at Lord's in both 1869 and 1870, by which time he would have been about nineteen. In the 1870 match his scores of 31 and 18 are said in the obituary to have had 'a great deal to do with his side's success by 21 runs'.

But the Morning Post match report thought nothing of the 31, and analysis of the match indicates Rhodes was a stonewaller. He must have batted for over two hours for 31, whilst others scored 109! It should be noted that the crowd over 8 and 9 July was estimated at 30,000, and included HRH the Duchess of Cambridge and the Prince and Princess of Teck.

The 1869 match was notorious for the gamesmanship of Harris of Eton. Later Frank was Secretary to Lord Harris as Governor-General of India, 1890–92. (From 1869 no one was allowed in the ground on horseback, although carriages still surrounded it.)

An earlier than previously known mention of Cecil playing at Rauceby has appeared, in 1868, when he was fifteen. Another contemporary remembers both brothers playing there, Frank by far the better player, but mentions no dates.
'Of considerable distinction and elegance'

The Roman villa at Scampton is one of the most important archaeological sites in Lincolnshire. This article provides a contextual overview of the 1795 excavations at the villa and a discussion of a previously unknown antiquarian illustration of its most complete tessellated pavement, recently acquired by The Collection museum, Lincoln.

The Roman villa at Scampton, just north of Lincoln, is one of the grandest villas known in the county. Situated in a dramatic position on Lincoln edge, five miles north of Lincoln Colonia, the original occupants would have enjoyed commanding views along the line of Tilbridge Lane, the Roman road leading westwards away from Ermine Street towards the Trent Valley. The villa was discovered and excavated in 1795 by the Reverend Cayley Illingworth (1758-1823). In his self-published book on the history of Scampton, originally printed in 1808, he describes the discovery:

Some workmen, digging for stone in a field south-west of the village, and north of Tilbridge-lane, were observed to turn up several red tiles, which, on inspection, Mr. Illingworth conceived to be Roman. This induced him to survey the general appearance of the surrounding spot; and being struck with obvious traces of foundations, he directed the men to dig towards them, when they came to a wall two feet beneath the surface, and shortly after to a Roman pavement. The result was, that the foundations of nearly a whole Roman villa were traced and accurately examined; and the situation of the place, the nature...
of the walls, the dimensions of some apartments, the number and beauty of the tessellated pavements, and the regular plan of the whole, leave little doubt of its having been a villa of considerable distinction and elegance.1 Illingworth’s excavation plan (Fig.1) reveals the extent of the villa, with forty-one rooms discovered around a double courtyard. There is some suggestion that the site continued further to the east and southeast, as indicated by unfinished walls on the plan. The excavations, typically for their day, did not explore the possibility of other outbuildings surrounding the main villa complex and were obvious of evidence of wooden structures, instead focusing on ‘chasing walls’. The scale of the complex is significant, with only the villas at Southwell, Mansfield Woodhouse and Norfolk Street, Leicester, known on a similar scale within the Civitas Coriellavorum. The layout is equally notable. Most Lincolnshire villas are of basilican form (such as Denton and Winterton) or corridor form (such as Great Casterton) yet Scampton has a double courtyard plan. Similar layouts, with courtyards fully enclosed by buildings, can be seen at grand villas in southern and western Britain, for example at Bignor (West Sussex), Woodchester (Gloucestershire) and North Leigh (Oxfordshire).

The dating of the Scampton villa is uncertain. It probably reached its zenith in the mid fourth century, but there remains the possibility that the villa’s original foundation was earlier, perhaps dating back to the first or second centuries.2 The location of the villa so close to Lindum Colonia, and almost certainly within its territorium, suggests that it may be a villa urbana as opposed to a villa rustica, that is to say a country house rather than the centre of an agricultural estate. Without a greater understanding of the wider landscape setting of the villa and its estates, however, this must remain conjecture. Equally, the extent to which a classical form of urbanism survived in late Roman towns is a matter of great debate, and the relationship between elite rural residences and walled towns in the late fourth century AD is far from clear.3 In this context, the Greetwell villa complex immediately to the east of the Colonia provides an interesting parallel for Scampton, being the only other grand edifice within close proximity of the colonia’s walls. The palatial scale and opulence of the Greetwell site have led to suggestions that it may have been the residence of early members of the later provincial governor, yet the Scampton villa has never been discussed in conjunction with it, despite being a comparable 4

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1 Illingworth, Rev Cayley, 1810, A Topographical Account of the Parish of Scampton in the County of Lincoln and of the Roman Antiquities lately discovered there, together with anecdotes of the family of Bolles, p.3.

2 Recent excavations of the Sudbrooke Villa site, about 10 miles to the east, by Bishop Grosseteste University have revealed 1st century origins – see Spence, C., 2009, Interim Report on Archaeological Excavations at Sudbrooke (Roman Villa) Lincolnshire, Finds reported on the Portable Antiquities Scheme from the field immediately south of the Scampton Villa site include coins and brooches of later 1st century date.

3 For discussions of this issue see for example Rogers, A., 2011, Late Roman Towns in Roman Britain: Rethinking Change and Decline, Cambridge.

and contemporary high status residence.

With regard to the villa's layout, Illingworth proposed that the entrance to the complex was located in the centre of the curiously trapezoidal western range (A on Fig.1), meaning that visitors entered with their backs to the grand Trent Valley vista. A monumental onlong stone block of six feet ten inches in length, three feet four inches in width (2.08m x 1.02m) was discovered at this entranceway, cut with square holes, what Illingworth interpreted as being fixed points for gateposts. Visitors entered through this range into some form of passageway or veranda between the two courtyards, presumably suitably appointed to allow the splendour of the structure, and perhaps even its unusual plan, to be appreciated. This must remain speculation, however, as the dotted lines demarking the northern and southern boundaries of room 2 on Fig.1 did not produce evidence of solid foundations. Illingworth suggested that the courtyards may have been kept distinct, with the northern courtyard of higher status and the southern courtyard of greater importance, though this distinction seems unjustified on current available evidence. The nature of the courtyards themselves is unfortunately unknown, though it is interesting to speculate that they may have contained formal gardens, or at least some element of architectural or sculptural adornment. The villa itself was certainly well appointed. Emergency excavations at the site in 1972 did little to uncover more evidence of the villa's layout or function, but did unearth a large quantity of wall plaster (Fig.2), demonstrating a variety of decorative schemes. The western entrance is also noteworthy of upward of 20 human skeletons, nearly perfect, buried in an east-west orientation, some interred in coffins. Illingworth supposed, as we still do today, that the burials represent Early Medieval or Medieval reuse of the site in the post Roman period, perhaps associated with the nearby medieval chapel of St Pancras, documented in the 12th century but of unknown foundation date.

The southern range of rooms (D on Fig.1) appear to have contained a bath suite, with Illingworth identifying room 22 as a bath due to clay deposits on the site, foundations and a low floor level. It is therefore likely that surrounding rooms also

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3 Illingworth, 1810, p.9.
7 Illingworth, 1810, p.13
8 English Heritage scheduling list
9 Illingworth, 1810, p.12
Compare the two drawings:

Fig. 3 (left) shows the pavement as drawn by Richard Stoneworth
Fig. 4 (above) shows the new illustration

served a bathing function, though no specific evidence for their purpose, layout, or substantial evidence for hypocausts is recorded as being discovered. It is possible that the bath suite continued to the southeast, outside of the excavated area.

The opulence of the villa was most dramatically demonstrated through its tessellated pavements. Illingworth noted that approximately thirteen were discovered, though with only one in a near complete state. The designs were exclusively geometric, and made from local limestone with tesserae ranging from ‘half an inch to an inch and a half square.’ The near complete pavement, the only one to be adequately recorded, was discovered in the room marked 4a on Fig. 1. This position, in the eastern range facing the main entrance, suggests that it served a public function as a reception room, or at least as a transitory between various spaces designed for business or conducting client-related activity.

D J Smith assigned the pavement to the Durobrivian School and dated it to the mid 4th century. It is to this tessellated pavement, and more specifically to the contemporary illustrations made of it, to which we now turn. The discovery clearly caused a stir at the time, but sadly to the detriment of the remains. Illingworth tells us:

When first discovered, the colours of this pavement were extremely bright, which added to the curiously artificial workmanship, afforded a pleasing specimen of the Roman art. But it shortly after lost much of its elegance, by reason of the tesserae having been picked up by the country people, who flocked in numbers to view it. In order, however, to prevent the pavement sustaining any further injury, a building was erected over it. notwithstanding this precaution, it is still to be lamented, that the decay of its beauty becomes visibly rapid, from the effects produced by the hands of idle curiosity.

The engraving of the pavement published in Illingworth’s 1808 book (Fig. 3) was produced by William Fowler of Winterton, an architect and builder who turned his considerable artistic talents into recording archaeological discoveries of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, and made a national name for himself in the process. His illustrations of tessellated pavements at other great Lincolnshire villas such as Winterton and Horkstow now provide an invaluable record of mosaics, many of which are now lost or reburied.

In July 2014 the Museum in Lincoln acquired an original hand-drawn illustration of this pavement from a local antiquarian.

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10 Illingworth, 1810, p.6
12 Illingworth, 1810, p.10
bookshop (Fig. 4). The provenance of this illustration is unknown, and inferences as to its origins must be made from the illustration itself.

Aside from the fact that they depict the same tessellate pavement (though Fowler's published illustration shows the western edge uppermost and the new illustration the eastern edge), the two illustrations are almost identical. One major difference, however, is that Fowler's engraving is clearly attributed to him as illustrator and producer (Wm Fowler del et fecit) and as being published by him on 1 May 1800. Illingworth notes in his book that Fowler's drawing was made several years since... without any view to this work, indirectly referencing this 1800 publication date. The new illustration, in contrast, is unsigned and uncredited. The titles of both illustrations follow a consistent format, with only two minor differences. The printed title on Fowler's illustration reads 'Roman Tessellated Pavement discovered by the Revd. Cayley Illingworth, upon the estate of Richard Stonhewer Esqr. at Scampton near Lincoln in the year 1795.' The handwritten title on the new illustration differs only in that tessellate is spelled with one 'T' and Scampton appears with a 'p.' The new illustration contains an additional note in the same hand, which reads: 'at Mr Stonhewer's death the estate went to George Cayley.' The note is written in a different ink and can be presumed to have been added at a later date. A terminus post quem for this addition is provided by the 1810 reprint of Illingworth's Scampton book, which records that Richard Stonhewer died on 30 January 1809, aged 80. Is this new illustration therefore an early draft by Fowler, subsequently altered for publication, or should it be attributed to the hand of a different artist altogether? It is proposed here that the truth lies with the latter. Fig. 5 shows a comparison of the same panel from both illustrations—Fowler's on the right and the new illustration on the left. That the new illustration is a rougher sketch is clear to see, as is the fact that the individual tesserae have not been individually demarked, instead rather crudely represented with a grid. Fowler's drawing clearly shows individual tesserae, though of course the veracity of these is now unprovable and the accuracy of the rendering of individual tesserae to be doubted. Nevertheless, Illingworth himself commented on the accuracy of Fowler's drawing, with the specific exception of the outer border, which was 'rather wider than the original.' The new illustration does not illustrate any border outside of the interlocking circles motif.

The fragmentary northern and southern terminations of the pavement are worthy of comparison (Fig. 6), as the only areas where the two illustrations differ in their depictions of the pattern and its level of preservation. In both instances Fowler's published illustration includes additional details omitted from the new illustration. Without reference to the original pavement, we of course cannot say which is the more accurate record, but we can postulate that the illustrations were carried out by different hands, one more willing to speculate on lost elements of the design, and

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13 Illingworth, 1810, p.9
14 Illingworth, 1810, p.52
15 Illingworth, 1816, p.9
the differences between them not merely those between first draft and published copy.

Examination of the handwritten title on the new illustration provides two reasons to believe that its creator was none other than the Reverend Cayley Illingworth himself. An 1808 copy of his book, now in Oxford University's Bodleian Library, is one originally presented to Edward Weston of Somerby, with a handwritten inscription. Comparison of Illingworth's name on this inscription and the new illustration (Fig.7) demonstrates that the handwriting is the same.

Further evidence is provided through the additional note on the illustration referencing the change of land ownership following Richard Stonewher's death. That the land passed into the ownership of Sir George Cayley (the aeronautical pioneer) would be of no discernable interest to Fowler, but of particular relevance to Illingworth as he was related to both Stonewher and Cayley.

It seems likely, therefore, that the illustration was produced at some point between 1795 and 1809. Given that Fowler published his illustration in 1800, it is possible that Illingworth's illustration predates that, and was made immediately following the unearthing of the pavement. Why then did Illingworth not publish his own illustration in his book? He included illustrations by various artists, including a frontispiece of the church and parsonage by his own wife, Sophia. Modesty may have played a part, or perhaps the fame that Fowler had gained meant that prudence dictated that he use the more recognised artist's illustration.

Whatever the reasons Illingworth's illustration has thankfully survived and now forms part of the formal record of the antiquarian discovery and study of this important archaeological site.

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17 Illingworth, 1816, p.52.

Peter Bradshaw is to be commended on a colourful piece of work which takes the reader on a vivid exploration of Gainsborough’s war years during the Great War. He demonstrates through his extensive use of the local newspaper, Gainsborough News, the wartime experiences of Gainsborough’s men and women and how these interconnected.

Emphasis is given to those men who rallied to the call of King and country, and reports concerning their activity on the fighting front add a certain solemnity to the work, especially when news of the first Gainsborough soldier, Private James Alfred Hare, was reported dead. Hare, aged 29 years and a soldier serving in the 1st Battalion Lincolnshire, died of battle wounds on 16 April 1914.

Yet, the local narrative of civilian wartime experiences is also covered in some detail with news coverage ranging from charity events, censorship of post and telegrams, to the impact of Belgian refugees on daily life and the marketing of certain goods. Bradshaw effectively manages to set the local narrative of Gainsborough within the regional and national narratives of the Great War, which provide a fitting background to contextualise certain key events and moments in the war.

However, the page layout of author text and newspaper text does become difficult to discern at certain points within the book, leaving the reader confused as to direction.

That aside, the reader will find this a wonderfully captivating read in terms of the wartime social history of the town, but in line with the present centenary commemorations, the author has produced a fitting tribute to the ‘fallen sons of Gainsboro’

Dr Claire Hubbard-Hall, Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln


Another publication from the ever-busy Grantham Civic Society, Arthur Storer's World delves again into some of the by-ways of the life of Isaac Newton and his Grantham connections. This time, the subject is a man better known in America than in the UK.

Arthur Storer (1642–1686) was one of Newton’s contemporaries at Grantham Grammar School and his widowed mother married William Clarke, the Grantham apothecary with whom Newton lodged while he attended the school in the 1650s.

Despite allegedly beating Newton up in his school days, Storer went on to become his lifelong friend and correspondent, sharing with Newton an interest in mathematics and astronomy. When Storer emigrated to Maryland in about 1670, he became what Ruth Crook calls “America’s first astronomer known by name” and corresponded with Newton on comets and astronomical calculations. Newton later mentioned his observations in Principia Mathematica, such information no doubt being particularly valuable because it came to him from halfway across the known world.

Ruth Crook’s book is not only a further insight into Newton’s Grantham background but a detailed and thorough investigation into a comparatively obscure seventeenth-century life and a testimony to what can be discovered about an individual who lived so long ago, given literacy, luck, persistence and a fortunate association with a famous man.

At times, it would have been good to have had a little more interpretation and comment to accompany what is often a recitation of essentially genealogical facts. However, for bringing Storer to the attention of many in Lincolnshire (including this reviewer) who had never heard of him, the author deserves every credit.

Dr Simon Pawley, Sleaford

newspapers and magazines, in books and articles, lectures, conferences and exhibitions, this single sheet of thirteenth-century parchment is being celebrated as never before. In Lincoln, the new David Ross Vault has been built within the walls of historic Lincoln Castle to provide the very best conditions in which to display our own Cathedral's copy of the original 1215 charter.

Magna Carta is hailed across the world as a cornerstone of civil liberties, one of the foundations of modern democracy and an icon of freedom.

Visitors standing before the Lincoln Magna Carta in the new Vault will see what is widely held to be the most finely written of the four surviving originals, fifty-four lines of elegant script, written by a skilled hand, representing some eight hours' work for the unknown clerk who copied it. The contrast between this single document and the universality of the status it has achieved is in itself awe-inspiring. Yet if we wish to go a little deeper into the meaning of Magna Carta, to find what lies behind those beautifully crafted words of highly abbreviated official Latin, we need help. This new book by the popular historian Dan Jones sets out to provide an accessible guide to the making and legacy of this great document.

In this aim, the author succeeds commendably. If you have ever wondered about the difference between scutage and socage, if you are puzzled by mort d'ancêtre or darrein presentment, or want to know what exactly is a sumpit, this is the book for you. The story of Magna Carta is traced back into the early years of the reign of Henry II, when the author demonstrates how the sheer size of the Plantagenet empire, stretching from the Scottish border in the north to the Pyrenees in the south, required not only a highly efficient administrative machine to keep it running smoothly but also a king of enormous energy, charisma and military prowess to prevent it all from falling apart.

The story of how Henry II and Richard I struggled, but largely succeeded, to maintain their power and authority over this vast territory is well told. The author proceeds to examine the impact of the accession in 1199 of John — admittedly an excellent administrator but signal lacking the military capability of his father and brother. The loss of Normandy in 1204, the king's determination to win it back and his success in extracting from his subjects a war-chest of staggering proportions, and the failure in 1214 of his attempt to reconquer his lost continental possessions, are all shown as steps on the road to that meadow called Runnymede.

A final chapter discusses the afterlife of the Charter over the eight hundred years since its first issue. There are valuable appendices giving the text of the document, both in Latin and in English translation, and biographical sketches of those who witnessed it and those (the famous twenty-five barons) who were appointed to enforce it. The book is written in a very accessible style by an author who is skilled at presenting complex issues to a non-specialist audience. As an introduction to the story of Magna Carta, this book is first class.

Dr Nicholas Bennett, Nocton


Another two booklets from the well known, Lincolnshire railway author Alf Ludlam, following the format established in his earlier 'Trains to the Seaside' volumes on Mablethorpe and Sutton on Sea and on Skegness.

The railway arrived in Grimsby in 1848 but it was in 1863 when it was extended to the small coastal village of Cleethorpes. Part of the Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire Railway, the town grew rapidly from 1880 with the decision to enlarge the station, erect a sea wall and erect entertainments suitable for the enjoyment of the Victorian visitor. By 1900 more than £100,000 had been spent on this by the railway company and the resort was attracting up to 30,000 people a day by rail, principally from Yorkshire, Lancashire and the Midlands.

The book consists mainly of photographs but also includes a few tickets, maps and posters, some 54 illustrations in all. All are of good quality and include a few modern views. Some of the posters are particularly interesting given the emphasis the town has always had with the holidaymaker. These include railway posters advertising cheap tickets and special trains as well as those extolling the attractions to be enjoyed. Among these latter are the playbills with headline names such as Vic Oliver and Two Ton Tessie O'Shea.

There are also short chapters entitled: Introduction; Arrival of the Railway; Holiday Traffic; Evening Excursions and Local Traffic; The 1953 Floods; London Excursions; and Present Day. The latter is very relevant. Cleethorpes is at the eastern end of a cross country link from north Lincolnshire to Manchester Airport via Doncaster, Sheffield, Stockport and Manchester, a service that may be under threat to the east of Doncaster with the ongoing discussions about the value of the railway in helping to create the 'northern powerhouse' as an antidote to continued development in South East England.

The Louth to Bardney book begins with almost an apology. It concentrates on the Bardney end of the route because the author's previous book Louth — a Lincolnshire Railway Centre, reviewed in Past and Present in Summer 2014, included activity at the Louth end of this line. Those of us familiar with Lincolnshire railway histories will be aware of the earlier book by this
author on the Louth-Bardney line, for the Oakwood Press.

The First Edition came out in 1984 and the second, jointly authored with W.B. Herbert, in 1987. This is now out of print. However, many of the photographs in this new publication do appear in the earlier ones. But, for those who do not have an old copy the photographs will be a joy to behold. How wonderful it is that so many good illustrations should still survive showing the trains on a line that lost its passenger trains in 1951 and its last goods trains in 1960.

The line, traversing the Wolds as it did, with two tunnels, at South Willingham and at Withcall, must be a very close candidate for the most scenic route in the County. Opened throughout for both passengers and goods in 1876, the optimism engendered in the Prospectus was soon dispelled by early receipts and as early as 1878 the owners, the Louth and Lincoln Railway Company, were appealing unsuccessfully to the Great Northern Railway for financial assistance. Traffic receipts between 1876 and 1881 never produced enough money to pay the bank interest and in 1881 the line was bought by the Great Northern Railway for £200,000, slightly more than half the cost of construction.

The usual mix of short chapters and many good quality and interesting illustrations we have come to expect of this format is maintained. Both books will be enjoyed by all historians interested in our County and its railways. With more promised in 2015 in the Branch Line series this reviewer can foresee a good market for the sale of sets of books as presents for birthdays and Christmas as well as by those who wish to indulge themselves.

Stewart Squires, Scunthorpe

ROBERTS, Marilyn. The bare bones of the story of King John and Magna Carta, with a profile of the rebel baron, Sir William de Mowbray. Queens-Haven Publications, 2015. 24pp. ISBN 978 0 9541539 4 5 £3.99 pbk. This is a really good title for such an informative little book. Marilyn Roberts has divided her story into several sections. Part one explains what the charter is and goes on to give a brief summary of King John's ancestry, the previous charters, the dispute and the barons involved in it and a list of the clauses in the charter.

The writer is from Lincolnshire and is employed in the Epworth Old Rectory Museum within the Isle of Axholme where there were many Mowbray holdings. Part Two concentrates on Sir William, including a family tree from 1066 to the fifteenth century. The list of Mowbray manors and properties is impressive. There is a section on Sir William's relationship with the King and his connection with Magna Carta. The final paragraph is a light-hearted look at descendants - at least that is how it reads - since it includes George Washington, Audrey Hepburn, Princess of Wales and many other such notables.

The writer offers references at various points within the text and provides a list for further reading. The centre pages include relevant colour photographs some of which are representations of the arms of the Mowbrays with some that are pub signs. At £3.99 this is good value with the first part, in particular, being a handy little reference to the Magna Carta story.

Pearl Wheatley, Lincoln

VINCENT, Nicholas. Magna Carta: a very short introduction. Oxford University Press, 2015. [9], 136pp. ISBN 978 0 19 958287 7 £7.99 pbk. Nicholas Vincent has packed a lot into this 'Very Short Introduction' to one of the most myth-laden documents of English history. The book was originally published in 2012 but clearly has 2015 as 'Magna Carta year' in mind. He includes a translation of the text of the 1215 Charter; but does not dissect or explicate it in great detail. His focus is less with King John's concession than with the idea of 'Magna Carta', its genesis and afterlife. Running through the discussion, as the history gets past the events at Runnymede, is a thread of 'which Charter?', as the original document was unravelled, recast, and mythologised in subsequent centuries, through to the present day.

The book's six chapters split neatly into three sets of two. The first couple deal with background, in the evolutions in ideas of law and royal authority after 1066, the struggles between kings and nobles, and earlier charters which provide a pattern into which Magna Carta fits, even though it breaks the mould. The middle two chapters home in on John's reign, and the essential breakdown of trust between the capricious king and his subjects - King John's "little ways" (Chapter 3) and 'The road to Runnymede' (Chapter 4). The final two chapters offer the afterlife. Here Vincent is deliberately myth-busting, almost suggesting that 2015 is the wrong year for the commemorations - yet perhaps asking what might be celebrated in the 'right' year.

Here he comments most extensively on the clauses, but without ploughing through in depth. In the cold light of context, King John's Charter was 'the treaty that failed', within weeks 'consigned to oblivion' (p. 81). Royalist reissues reshaped the text, the most important coming in 1225: by then 'Magna Carta had completed its metamorphosis from peace settlement into legislation' (p. 86), and thereafter could acquire its totemic status. The 1225 issue is perhaps the 'true' Magna Carta, the one which ultimately mattered. The subsequent history is necessarily covered at a gallop, succinctly and effectively. Almost all of the Charter's clauses have been repealed and superseded, yet an ethereal Magna Carta retains a seductive role in the myth of the English/British constitution, and imbues the surviving copies of the 'originals' (whichever version they copy) with a magnetic appeal.

Vincent writes smoothly, accessibly, and knowledgeably. He knows that he is essentially retrajecting old ground for most of the time; but he does it engagingly, and with panache.
There are no footnotes, but some indications for further reading – and enough is tantalisingly undeveloped in the book to entice at least some readers towards it. Lincolnshire readers may be gratified by mention of the Battle of Lincoln as a decisive event in the civil war which erupted when the original Magna Carta settlement failed, and perhaps intrigued (or outraged) by the fate proposed in the 1940s for Lincoln cathedral's copy of the 1215 Charter. More recent controversy surrounding that document is not mentioned.

Professor R. N. Swanson, All Souls College, Oxford


The publications of The Survey of Lincoln will be sufficiently well known to readers of Past and Present for them to have high expectations of this, the eleventh volume in The Survey's series of booklets on the City of Lincoln. It will not disappoint.

The booklet is subdivided into seventeen substantive chapters, and the author list contains articles by, amongst others, Michael J. Jones, Chris Johnson, Mary Lucas, and Rob Wheeler to name but a few.

Given that this is an area that contains both Lincoln Castle and the Cathedral, about which much has already been written, the booklet nevertheless manages to provide an informative outline of these, the principal monuments in the city, though it concentrates on the surrounding area namely the Bail and the Close.

I have absolutely no doubt that even the most well-informed Lincolnian will find that he has much to learn from this attractively priced and easy to read booklet. Approximately A5 in size, it will fit conveniently into a jacket pocket or handbag so as to accompany the reader on his or her travels about The Bail. Through its pages the reader will learn something of the secret history of Lincoln's historic quarter and of its former inhabitants and as a result will thereafter look upon the area with fresh eyes. As is usual with The Survey's publications, the booklet is meticulously researched and provides reliable and authoritative information about its subject matter. It is well worth a read!


This is a very straightforward book and the title suggests what it is all about. The author has searched through a variety of sources (though a great many of the quotations emanate from the Grimsby Evening Telegraph) in order to produce some item of news or commemorative piece for each day of the year. Some days have more than one entry.

The range of subjects is wide – I expected there to be an overload of tales of the fishing industry (and there are, of course, quite a few such references) but many aspects of the history of the town over the last 200 years are covered. A great number of people associated with the town find a place here, ranging from Steve Currie (pop musician – 28 April) through Colin Carr (well-known artist – 14 September) to Archbishop John Whitgift (died 29 February 1604).

There is then something for all Grimbarians and others with associations with the area. At its modest price it will make an ideal present.


The author has already provided other tales of blood-curdling events in the county and has now turned his attention to the northwest area, centred on Scunthorpe. Nine chapters deal with murders ranging in time from 1921 to 1973.

From a variety of local newspapers and other printed sources we are provided with graphic accounts of skulduggery of all sorts. In the first case the bodies of two children are found buried in reed beds near Brumby and it subsequently turns out that the father neglected them and left them outdoors to survive whatever the elements might do and that led to their demise; when tried at Lincoln he was found guilty of manslaughter (to the judge's surprise) and was sentenced to 7 years' penal servitude. In the second case a wife shot her husband on returning from a night out to which she was not invited – she just meant to frighten him' That trial, in 1937, found some of the great names in the British judiciary involved – Justice Humphreys and Norman Birkett KC among them – but the defendant was found not guilty on all charges, again much to many people's surprise.

In fact, the number of cases where a guilty verdict was returned is quite low; mental instability saved Eva Williamson in 1953 and no one was found liable for the death of Emily Charlesworth in 1945. In the final case, in 1973, Christine Markham's body was never found and her disappearance is still a mystery.

Well illustrated – anyone looking for a good retelling of these mysteries will find something of interest and even entertainment.

SLHA members, please check the mailing that comes with this edition of the magazine to see the most recent new books available as well as the latest list of secondhand books that can be bought through the Jews' Court Bookshop. Please note that if more than one person expresses an interest in a particular secondhand book, that title will be drawn lots for on the date specified.